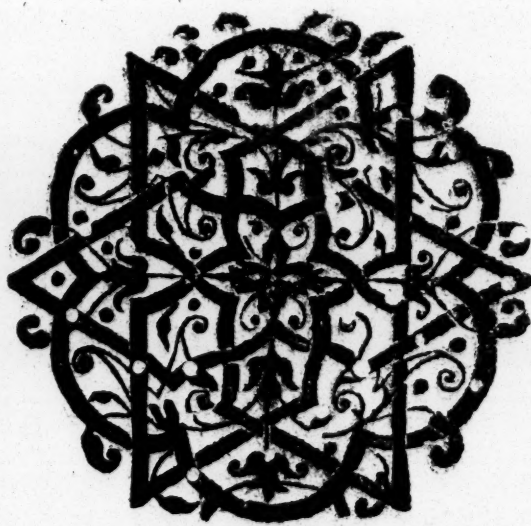


THE  
**EARLE OF  
STRAFFORDS**

Speech on the Scaffold before he  
was beheaded on Tower-  
hill, *May* 12.

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Printed in the yeare,

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Wentworth Thomas (at sea) 8th Sept 1801

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THE  
**E A R L E**  
 OF  
**S T R A F F O R D S**  
 Speech on the Scaffold.

**M**Y Lord Primate of Ire-  
 land, (and my Lords,  
 and the rest of these  
 Gentlemen) it is a very  
 great comfort to me, to  
 have your Lordship by  
 mee this day in regard I have beene  
 known to you a long time; I should be ve-  
 ry glad to obtain so much li-  
 cence, as to be  
 heard a few words, but I doubt I shal not.  
 My Lord I come hither by the good will  
 and pleasure of Almighty God, to pay

that last debt I owe to sinne, which is death; and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Iesus to eternall glory.

And he being disturbed by the people, he said, *what is the matter*, and sate down in a chaire; some replied, the souldiers kept most stirre. *If they*, said he, *would bee quiet, all the rest would be quiet.*

*I wish I had beene private*, that I might have beene heard: my Lord, if I might be so much beholding to you that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great curtnie: my Lord I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I doe it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveness that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speake it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any creature. I  
thanke



thanke God I may say truely, and my  
 Conscience beares me witnesse, that in all  
 my services since I have had the Honour  
 to serve his Majesty in any employment  
 I never had any thing in my heart, but  
 the joynt and individuall prosperity of  
 King and People; if it have been my hap  
 to be misconfer'd, it is the common por-  
 tion of us all while we are in this life, the  
 righteous judgement is hereafter, here  
 we are subject to errour, and apt to bee  
 misjudged one of another: there is one  
 thing I desire to cleere my selfe off, and I  
 am very confident, I speake it with so  
 much clearnesse, that I hope I shall have  
 your Christian Charity in the beliese of it.  
 I did alwaies ever thinke the Parliaments  
 of England were the happiest Constitu-  
 tions that any Kingdome, or any Nation  
 lived under, and under God the meanes  
 of making King and people happy, so  
 farre have I beene from being against  
 Parliaments: for my death I here acquit  
 all the world, and pray God heartily to

forgive them ; and in particular, my Lord Primate I am very glad that his Majesty is pleased to conceive me, not meriting so severe, and heavy a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence ; I am very glad and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beseech God to turne it to him, that hee may finde mercy when he hath most need of it ; I wish this Kingdome all the prosperity and happines in the world : I did it living, & now dying it is my wish ; I doe now professe it from my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wish every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whether the beginning of the happinesse of a people should be written in letters of blood. I feare you are in a wrong way, and I desire Almighty God that no one drop of my blood may rise up in judgement against you.

(My Lord) I professe my selfe a true and obedient Son to the Church of England, to that Church wherein I was born  
and

and wherein I was bred ; prosperity and  
 happinesse be ever to it : and whereas it  
 hath beene said that I have enclin'd to  
 Popery, if it be an objection worth an-  
 swering, let me say truly, that from the  
 time since I was one and twenty yeares  
 of age, till this houre, now going upon  
 nine and forty, I never had thought in my  
 heart to doubt of the truth of my Religi-  
 on in England : and never any had the  
 boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to  
 the best of my remembrance ; and so be-  
 ing reconciled to the mercies of Christ  
 Iesus my Saviour, into whose bosome I  
 hope shortly to be gathered, to enjoy those  
 eternall happinessees that shall never have  
 end ; I desire heartily the forgivenesse of  
 every man, both for any rash or unadvi-  
 sed word or deed, & desire your prayers :  
 And so my Lords farewell, farewell all  
 the things of this world ; Lord strengthen  
 my faith, give me confidence and assu-  
 rance in the merits of Christ Iesus. I de-  
 sire you that you would be silent and,  
 joyne

(6)

joyne in prayers with me; and I trust in  
God that we shall all meet and live eter-  
nally in Heayen, there to receive the ac-  
complishment of all happinesse, where  
every teare shall be wiped from our eyes,  
and every sad thought from our hearts:  
And so God bleffe this Kingdome, and  
Iesus have mercy upon my Soule.

**FINIS.**